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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6845
INFO RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY 9168

CONFIDENTIAL RIYADH 002176

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NEA/ELA FOR ANN D. SOMERSET AND MATT IRWIN.

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/30/2017 TAGS: <u>PGOV</u> <u>PREL</u> <u>PTER</u> <u>LE</u> <u>SA</u>

SUBJECT: SAG RESPONSE: ISTANBUL MINISTERIAL SIDE MEETING ON

LEBANON

REF: SECSTATE 150112

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Gfoeller for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

11. (C) Acting PolCouns delivered reftel demarche to Ambassador Talal Berri from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on October 30. Ambassador Berri remarked that although he cannot immediately confirm the Foreign Minister's acceptance of this invitation, he is optimistic that Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal will accept. He noted that the Foreign Minister is always "happy" to participate in meetings that help countries in the region. Ambassador Berri also noted that the French foreign ministry had already delivered a similar demarche, it was currently being positively considered by the Foreign Minister, and the SAG is pleased that so many important players are working towards the same goals. FRAKER